(Rs. in Crores)

Year	IOC	HPCL	BPCL
2006-2007	33664.92	9259.70	9912.00
2007-2008	39893.88	10224.28	11315.30

Shortage of cooking gas in Kerala

2430. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of cooking gas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard;

(d) the details of monthly requirement of LPG cooking gas cylinders in Kerala and the details of sale of LPG cylinders; and

(e) the action taken to bridge the gap between requirement and sale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country including in the State of Kerala and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

However, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have reported backlog of 1-2 days in LPG supplies in the States of Delhi, Kerala and Tamil Nadu mainly because of spurt in demand, heavy rains, transporter agitation and various bandhs etc. Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the States by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours.

(d) and (e) Requirement of LPG in each State varies from month to month and State to State. The demand/sales of domestic LPG in the State of Kerala during the period April to November, 2008 is 299.47 TMT as against 289.50 TMT during the corresponding period of last year.

Windfall profits of Private Oil Companies

2431. SHRI R. C. SINGH:
SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the private oil companies in the country are enjoying windfall profits due to the high global crude prices;

(b) whether it is also a fact that when the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) was adopted for the private oil companies, the crude oil prices were much below the present global crude prices;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government proposes to revise the NELP or to impose a cess on the windfall profits made by the private oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Increase in crude oil prices may not permit windfall profits since cost of Exploration and Production (E&P) operations has also increased. There would also be higher royalty and corporate tax pay outs by the oil companies. Further, crude oil prices have shown a declining trend since August, 2008.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Global crude prices were much below the present global crude prices at the time of adoption of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) in 2000. As per BP Statistics 2008, Brent Crude oil price was US $ 28.5 per barrel in 2000 and US $ 72.39 per barrel in 2007. In December 2008, the crude oil prices are hovering around US $ 40 per barrel.

A High Powered Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri B.K. Chaturvedi, Member, Planning Commission was set up to examine the financial position of oil Companies. Dr. Saumitra Chaudhuri, Member, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council and Dr. Arvind Virmani, Chief Economic Advisor Government of India were the other members of the Committee. The High Power Committee has given recommendations on various issues including windfall profits. The recommendations of the Committee are being examined.

Petro scenario in North-East

2432. SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of availability of petroleum and natural gas in each of the eight States in the North East India, State-wise;

(b) the details of extraction of petroleum and natural gas in all the said States, State-wise;

(c) the details of refineries and other such plants in all the said States, State-wise; and

(d) the proposals for extraction and exploitation of oil and natural gas in Nagaland?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The State-wise details of Oil and Natural Gas reserves and production in 2007-08 in the following North Eastern States are given below:

State	Oil Reserves (MMT)	Oil Production 07-08 (MMT)	Gas Reserves Gas (BCM)	Gas Production 07-08 (BCM)
1	2	3	4	5
Assam	167.62	4.36	81.45	2.60